## **REMARKS**

Claims 1-24 remain pending herein. Claims 5-8, 10, 12, 17-20, 22 and 24 have been amended hereby.

This Preliminary Amendment is submitted to eliminate multiply dependent claims from the above-identified application.

Examination of this application on its merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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November 23, 1999

Date

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